

Quake prediction 'like a horoscope'

TANIA BUTTERFIELD Last updated 12:00 18/02/2011

A man who says he can predict earthquakes by the Moon believes Marlborough could suffer a shake-up next month, but a seismologist says the risk is no greater than at any other time.

Lunar scientist Ken Ring is predicting movement along an east-west fault line in New Zealand at noon on March 20. The only east-west fault lines in New Zealand were thought previously to be in Marlborough and North Canterbury, although new ones had become apparent in Canterbury since the magnitude-7.1 quake on September 4, he said.

GNS Science seismologist Lara Bland said Mr Ring's prediction was like a horoscope and the risk of quakes along the Alpine Fault was well known. "The Alpine Fault has been very seismically active and will continue to do so through March and beyond."

Mr Ring, who reportedly predicted a big earthquake in the South Island in a radio interview the week before the Canterbury earthquake, uses the movement of the Moon to predict weather and earthquakes.

He said on his website in September last year that there was a risk of another big earthquake in the South Island on March 20.

He predicted an east-west fault line was likely to be affected.

Mr Ring said he based his prediction on a number of factors to do with the the lunar cycle, which he said created a greater gravitational force on the Earth.

"It could be one for the history books," he said on his website.

He also believed that a large number of sun spots on the Sun indicated an increased risk of earthquake activity within the next few days, he said. "If there's an earthquake in the next few days in the South Island, there could very well be another one in March, as it is the same monthly cycle. "

Ms Bland said Mr Ring was correct that there was a risk of an earthquake along the Alpine Fault in March, but it had nothing to do with the Moon. "From a science point of view, the whole of New Zealand is a large area at risk to earthquakes and the South Island has got a whole lot of it."

If any unusual quakes happened during this period, it was because of the continuing effects of the Canterbury quake, she said.

Mr Ring's broad 500km prediction covered most of New Zealand and if something did happen, his prediction would be correct, but not because it was accurate, Ms Bland said. "It's like a horoscope."

BE QUAKE SAFE

Whether Mr Ring is right or wrong, it pays to be quake safe: Secure hot-water cylinders and header tanks. Check that your house is secured to its foundations. Secure your chimney with galvanised metal bands. Secure tall furniture to the wall studs. Secure woodburners to the floor. Store heavy objects low down. Use non-slip mats under smaller appliances and objects. Use plastic putty (Blu Tack) to secure ornaments. Push picture and mirror hooks closed. Have flexible gas and plumbing fittings installed. Develop a personal and family emergency plan for your household. Assemble and maintain your emergency survival items for your home and workplace, as well as a portable getaway kit. Practice drop, cover

and hold. For more information, see getthru.govt.nz and eqc.govt.nz

- The Marlborough Express

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Melissa-Jane #37 07:51 pm Mar 03 2011

Well...we all know that natural science has NOT found the answers yet on WHEN and WHERE earthquakes will happen....or else nobody would have been in the Chch CBD last week, hey!! People, think of this before you chastise Mr Rings theories....was Galilio criticised by the masses for saying/theorising the world was ROUND, when at the time, scientific knowledge pointed to it being flat!!!! Perhaps, Mr Ring is right....we can only hold our breath and watch what will happen during his next prediction on due with the next ki tide. Also, I must say, the moon pulls these whole great oceans that we see, with our own eyes everyday, we can't see it pulling great seas of magma below our feet, but I assure you, its happening. There is ALOT out there in nature that we little humans are ignorent of or have little knowledge of. My final word....keep your mind and heart open to all, and knowledge will come. Melissa-Jane Skehan

Martin #36 02:32 pm Mar 02 2011

More quotes from Ken Ring's website. This one appeared after the Sept 4 shake:

"For another disastrous event, Christchurch may or may not be in the firing line again; it could be Wellington or anywhere, and it may not even happen."

Talk about covering all your bases...

LKH #35 01:06 pm Mar 02 2011

Ken also writes a fantastic book on reading your cat's palm. Clearly a man of many talents. <http://www.amazon.com/Pawmistry-Read-Your-Cats-Paws/dp/1580081118> Please: people of ChCh. I know in these scary & uncertain times a little assurance & certainty would be comforting, but please don't throw all critical thinking skills out the window. This is pseudo-science preying on fear.

Martin #34 06:30 pm Mar 01 2011

Another example of Mr Ring's very poor grasp on the workings of the earth. I really cant understand what he's talking about here:

"The 4 September earthquake happened 12kms underground. Current geology wants us to believe that a mighty loose cannon of a 650 kiloton ball of energy, from 12kms away, hurtling surfacewards, has some sort of steering mechanism that seeks out old fault lines to surface through. Imagine an H-bomb the size of that which destroyed Hiroshima, heading towards Christchurch from 12kms away. Now imagine 43 such bombs in one explosive package of energy and you have the size of the 4 September earthquake. Would a 650 kiloton monster earthquake have bothered to set itself within the confines of a previously carved faultline?"

Cannons...balls of energy....earthquakes "surfacing" along faultlines???? Honestly this is nothing but someone with absolutely no grasp of the workings of the earth trying to fool u into believing he's an expert on same.

Martin #33 06:06 pm Mar 01 2011

Out of interest Ive had a look at Kens website and I must say there is some interesting stuff. Heres one example:

"So which is the culprit, moon..or Sun..or both? Well, it must always be both. The moon answers to the Sun. It is a planet that orbits the Sun just as the Earth does."

So the moon is a planet is it? So when did it go from being a natural satellite to a planet?

There's lots of other statements on the website that are just as absurd and give an indication of the poor grasp Mr Ring has of the workings of the earth and its moon.

Martin #32 03:24 pm Mar 01 2011

@ 31 Geoff Bolton. One problem with your comments.....the earth's moon doesn't have "unusually large gravity".....it's relatively low. Acceleration of objects due to gravity at or near the surface on the moon is around 1.6 m/s². On the earth it's around 9.8 m/s². For comparison the sun has a value of 274.1 m/s² and Jupiter is 25.9m/s². Io has a value of 1.8m s² close to that of earth's moon.

Geoff Bolton #31 12:38 pm Mar 01 2011

I wouldn't be quick to discredit Ken Ring like so many people seem to... Look at Io, the nearest moon to Jupiter. The gravitational changes experienced on its elliptical orbit squeeze and stretch it enough to make it the most geologically active region in the solar system. Before the Voyager probe missions, scientists had expected it to just be a cold barren rock. The gravity here is far less, but it still has a profound effect on our oceans. Beneath the surface we have liquid rock. It is foolish to ignore the possibility that unusually large gravity will have no effect on those tides. I would at least consider it among other harder facts.

Victoria #30 10:58 am Mar 01 2011

@kevin Ok Kevin understood, however, if you run out of supplies or need help in any way we will still be there for you. From Marlborough & the rest of NZ

Martin #29 10:39 pm Feb 28 2011

Has anyone sat down and tallied up the total number of earthquakes Christchurch has had since Sept 4th and how many Mr Ring has actually predicted?

Just a thought.

RetireCampbell #28 07:40 pm Feb 28 2011

Geez just watching Campbell monologue with Ken Ring, awful and I don't mean Ken. Already since the 22nd he's been bigger than quake, makes running for a mute button a matter of emergency.

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